

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 11 have been amended to recite that the fluorovinyl group-containing emulsifier comprises a fluorovinyl group-containing compound represented by formula (V). This is the surfactant that was used in Examples 3-5 of the specification. Claims 5 and 6 have been canceled.

Withdrawn independent method claim 11 has been amended to include all of the limitations of product claim 1. If product claim 1 is found to be allowable, Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of withdrawn method claims 11 and 12 pursuant to MPEP § 821.04.

Review and reconsideration on the merits are requested.

Claims 1 and 3-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,670,593 to Araki et al.

In response, the claims have been limited to the fluorovinyl group-containing compound (V). Even though the surfactant of formula (V) is found in the disclosure of Araki et al, the amended claims are patentable in view of the unexpected results of the present invention as demonstrated in Examples 3-5 of the specification.

Particularly, when the surfactant of formula (V) is used, the dispersion thus obtained has a high solids content and a low surfactant concentration. The polymer thus obtained has a small primary particle size and a low amorphous index (AI). Especially, the surfactant concentration and amorphous index (AI) are surprisingly low.

The amorphous index (AI) is an indicator of crystallinity, and a lower AI value is considered to indicate that the introduction of the fluorovinyl group-containing compound is less influential. This is discussed bridging pages 39-40 of the specification.

In view of the amendment to claim 1 and the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present claims are patentable over Araki et al, and withdrawal of the foregoing rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Withdrawal of all rejections, rejoinder of claims 11 and 12 and allowance of claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10 and 11 is earnestly solicited.

In the event that the Examiner believes that it may be helpful to advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number indicated below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: December 30, 2009